

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 24 without prejudice and amend claims 19, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30 and 31 as follows:

Claims 1 to 18 (canceled).

19(currently amended). A method for repeat transmission of messages in a centrally controlled communication network, in which several terminals (T1,T2,...) are simultaneously configured to operate, said method comprising:

- a) transmitting each of said messages once from a central station (ZE) for reception by each of said terminals (T1 ,T2,...) of a participating group of said terminals and assigning respective sequence numbers (SN) identifiers to corresponding messages for detection of message loss or message error;
- b) as soon as one of said terminals (T1, T2,...) has detected an error in or loss of one of the messages, said one of said terminals detecting said error or said loss issues a repeat request for said one of said messages over a communication link between the central station (ZE) and the terminal (T1 ,T2,...) detecting said error or said loss, said repeat request including one of said sequence numbers (SN) identifying said one of said messages detected as lost or erroneous; and
- c) said central station (ZE) performs repeat transmissions of said one of said messages with said one of said sequence numbers (SN) in response to the repeat request, but only within a predetermined time interval;

d) halting said repeat transmissions of said one of said messages within said predetermined time interval when a predetermined maximum number of repeat transmissions of said one of said messages has been reached within said predetermined time interval; and

e) halting said repeat transmissions of said one of said messages within said predetermined time interval when a positive acknowledgement of receipt of said one of said messages is received by said central station during said predetermined time interval from said terminal issuing said repeat request;

whereby clogging of said communication network by said repeat transmissions is effectively prevented.

20(previously presented). The method as defined in claim 19, wherein said centrally controlled communication network is a radio network and said communication link is a point-to-point link.

21(previously presented). The method as defined in claim 19, wherein said maximum number of said repeat transmissions is determined by a length of said predetermined time interval and a length of said message.

22(currently amended). The method as defined in claim 19, wherein said ~~predetermined number of said repeat transmissions~~ are is limited by said one of said terminals detecting said loss or said error.

23(currently amended). The method as defined in claim 19, further comprising positively acknowledging issuing said positive acknowledgement (ACK) of each correctly received message or issuing a negative acknowledgment (NACK) of the each lost or erroneous message in order to inform said central station (ZE) whether or not message repetition is necessary.

Claim 24 (canceled).

25(currently amended). The method as defined in claim 19 claim 24, further comprising erasing or not using said one of said messages received by at least one other of said terminals of said participating group if said one of said messages was previously correctly received by said at least one other of said terminals ~~another of said messages received by said one of said terminals detecting said loss or said error when said another of said messages contains said sequence number of a previously correctly received message.~~

26(currently amended). The method as defined in ~~claim 24~~, further comprising ~~acknowledging only at least~~ claim 19, wherein only one of said sequence numbers is acknowledged in order to inform said central station (ZE) whether or not message repetition is necessary.

27(currently amended). The method as defined in claim 19 claim 24, wherein a plurality of said sequence numbers of all previous ones of said messages since

an immediately preceding acknowledgment are positively or negatively acknowledged in order to inform said central station (ZE) whether or not message repetition is necessary.

28(currently amended). The method as defined in claim 19, further comprising storing only a predetermined number ~~a plurality~~ of sequentially transmitted messages in a memory of said central station (ZE) for repeat transmission of said transmitted messages ~~as needed~~ and controlling said memory so that a newly transmitted message overwrites an oldest one of said transmitted messages stored in said memory of said central station (ZE).

29(previously presented). The method as defined in claim 19, wherein said participating group consists of all of or less than all of said terminals in said communication network.

30(currently amended). The method as defined in claim 19, further comprising assigning a temporary address in said central station (ZE) to each of said terminals of said participating group.

31(currently amended). The method as defined in claim 19, further comprising assigning at least one predefined address to each of said terminals of said participating group for simultaneous transmission of said messages to each of said terminals in a broadcast and/or multi-cast operation.